

REMARKS**I. General**

Claims 11-15, 23, 27-32, and 34-40 were considered by the Examiner in the final Office Action dated November 19, 2003. Claims 11-14, 27, and 28 are rejected; claims 29-32 are objected to; and claims 15, 23, and 34-40 are allowed in the present Action. The issues raised in the Final Office Action are:

- Claims 11-14, 27, and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Taskett (WO 97/04579) (hereinafter *Taskett579*) and Taskett (WO 25237) (hereinafter *Taskett237*) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,796,832 to Kawan (hereinafter *Kawan*) and U.S. Patent No. 5,590,038 to Pitroda (hereinafter *Pitroda*);
- Claims 15, 23, and 34-40 are allowed; and
- Claims 29-32 are objected to, and based on the Office Action mailed June 5, 2002, Applicant assumes claims 29-32 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

II. Rejections under §103(a)—Combination of *Taskett579*, *Taskett237*, *Kawan*, and *Pitroda*

The Examiner has rejected claims 11-14, 27, and 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Taskett579* and *Taskett237* in view of *Kawan* and further in view of *Pitroda*. Applicant traverses the rejection and asserts that claims 12-14, as amended, are allowable at least for the reasons stated below.

Without conceding to the Examiner's rejection, Applicant cancels claims 11, 27 and 28, and, therefore, the rejection of claims 11, 27 and 28 is now moot. Applicant also amends claims 12-14 to depend from claim 29.

Claim 29 was objected to by the Examiner, but was noted to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. (See Office Action mailed June 5, 2002 at page 6). Therefore, to comply with the Examiner's suggestion, claim 29 has been amended herein and is rewritten as an independent claim including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Thus, as

amended, claim 29 is allowable, and therefore, claims 12-14 are also allowable as they now depend from allowable claim 29.

III. Objection of Claims 29-32

Claims 29-32 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant has amended claims 29-32 by rewriting claims 29, 30, 31, and 32 as independent claims that include all the subject matter of base claim 11 and any intervening claims. Thus, claims 29-32 have been amended according to the Examiner's suggestion (See Office Action mailed June 5, 2002 at page 6), and therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to amended claims 29-32 be withdrawn.

IV. Summary

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge Deposit Account No. 06-2380, under Order No. 51410/P013US/09900130 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

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Respectfully submitted,

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